

Letters

13 of 23

Clift, Amos

July 14 1858

San Francisco July 14th 1858

Dear Father

I recieved yours of June 19th this morning and I can assure you that it was perused with much pleasure.

I have been in town about two weeks having come in for the purpose of handing in the Yearly & Quarterly returns of the Lighthouse and also to spend the Fourth and consult a physician in regard to my eyes. I have been troubled with my eyes now for about 5 months and the doctor tells me that it is owing to Scrofula in the system and has recommended a thorough cleansing of my blood. I have procured the necessary medicines and on my return to my home I shall strictly comply with his orders and hope the result may be satisfactory. I have suffered much, very much on account of my eyes and I hope brother Horace may find a remedy but what to recommend I know not. but I can tell him of one thing which, if it does no good it can do no harm, for I have tried it and it helped me much. Every night when he goes to bed let him take a cloth and wet it with cold water and lay it on his eyes and bind it on with a handkerchief or something of that kind. Have several thicknesses of cloth so that it will keep damp and cool all night and I think it will help him.

I cannot answer your letter in full at this time for I am expecting to go back today or tomorrow on one of the Pilot boats and I will write you from the Island and give you a full account of the Light and everything appertaining to it.

I called at the Post office this morning and paid the postage on that letter but they would not let me have it as it is against the rules. I think it must be from Lod.

I cannot write much at this time as I have much business to attend to at the Custom House for the late Keeper of the Light was a very ignorant man and all the accounts are topsy turvey and I am trying to straighten them up at the close of the fiscal year (30th June) so as to commence square.

Give my love to all the family and particularly to little Lydia. O how I should like to see you all but that is impossible.

In great haste

Your affectionate son

Amos

<on same piece of stationery>

San Francisco

July 15th 1858

Amos Clift

Dear

Few moments since I met Amos & conversed with him quite at length: He being about to depart for the Island, after finishing his business very satisfactorily with the Light House Superintendent....In compliance with his request, I do with pleasure attempt to occupy a part of the space which he has been compelled to leave in consequence of not having the time ..Hoping that it may be

received with the feelings which I would desire to have it.. I wrote you a very hurried? note soon after Amos had received his appointment and had gone out to resume his duty; also a letter some time during the month of May last, the later however, I think must be the one which has been retained at the P.O. here, for more payment of postage. But cannot think that I could have been so careless, especially with that, as I had felt a lively interest in informing you of the particulars of Amos situation, knowing how pleased you would have been, Sir, to have received it.. Suffice it to say that Amos has got a good place; after much hard luck & great anxiety of mind & with industry & attention he cannot but be safe & do well... placed upon an isolated Island as he must be the greater part of his time, cannot spend much money I should not think even if he was so much inclined.

He has good associates & is much pleased though at times he must be quite lonesome, but after the _____ of the \$83 per month "Dull care must leave" for a greater importance.

He makes it his home with me during his stay in town, was my associate when in single Blessedness & became a part of family when I adopted the double...& for the credit of my house and the sake of my Ancestors whatever I might be tempted not would in any instance invite to my fireside one unworthy of being in presence of her whom I have taken as my partner for life. But excuse the term?, I have to write always just about as I think (You will say I presume that I honestly inherited it when you but think of my desperate Mother) Amos will upon his arrival at the Light, write I presume & give you a long letter concerning his position...I have written much more than I had intended & with your forgiveness will close after my kind respects to your family.

I am very respectfully yours

L. Latham Sawyer